

nearly 4 billion hours and \$63 billion waiting in congestion.

The only way to reduce this congestion and to create new jobs is for states to build the new roads and transit projects they need—and states cannot do that until the federal government meets its responsibility and commits funding for these projects to the states.

There is an old saying: even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. Right now, it is time to get moving—and to get our transportation system moving—by passing a transportation reauthorization.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. For the seventh time since the expiration of TEA 21 in September 2003, the House will adopt a temporary extension of highway, transit and highway safety programs.

Why can't we get this bill done? The House adopted the legislation on a 417–9 vote. The Senate adopted the legislation on an 89–11 vote. And yet, the President has threatened to veto the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are spending more time in traffic today than they ever have before. They're commuting hours to work, missing their children's soccer games, and losing their precious free time to traffic.

Commuters in my district in San Francisco's Bay Area are suffering in the second worst city in America for gridlock. They're losing a total of over \$2 million in wasted fuel and several hours each week, away from their offices and their families.

At the same time, our infrastructure is in need of repair. Our roads and highways are crumbling and we have limited funds to invest in new transit systems.

Mr. Speaker, the American people get it. They know that we need an infusion of federal funds to begin addressing our critical transportation infrastructure needs. They're tired of paying gas taxes at the pump and receiving nothing in return.

It's time to get this bill done. It's time for the President to put his veto stamp away and listen to the American people.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2566.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we have just voted on a bill with many important elements for our troops, and I wanted to say a few words about our men and women in uniform.

Since taking office, I have had the chance to meet with our troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, and those here at home in my State of Tennessee, and I cannot describe a more patriotic, dedi-

cated, and courageous group of human beings.

In the face of adversity, tackling this enormous new war on terror, they have put on their game face and they have gotten to work. Their commitment to, as they like to call it, "the mission," inspires me, and it inspires all of us to be sure that we are working here to do everything we can to support their work.

So today, during Military Appreciation Month, I want to extend to our men and women in uniform the world over a great big thank-you from this American and from every other citizen whose freedom in life depends on their strength and conviction. May God bless all of them.

#### RAISING AWARENESS FOR PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Pulmonary Hypertension Association for raising awareness and for creating a network of support for patients with pulmonary hypertension. I would especially like to recognize the dedication of my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and his family, but especially the courage of his granddaughter, Charity Sunshine, who suffers from this rare, chronic, debilitating condition, which is characterized by increased pressure in the pulmonary vessels.

It is encouraging to note that significant advances have been made, enabling doctors to provide more effective medical therapies.

So please join me in thanking the Lantos family and the PHA for their unwavering commitment to finding a cure for pulmonary hypertension. My prayers are with all who are affected by this condition.

#### U.S. TRADE POLICY

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush is asking this Congress to pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement, a dysfunctional cousin of the North American Free Trade Agreement, in spite of the fact that our trade policy has failed.

Twelve years ago, the U.S. had a \$38 billion trade deficit. After NAFTA, China and a host of other trade agreements, our trade deficit is now \$618 billion.

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Mr. Speaker, someone defined insanity as if you do the same thing over and over and over again, you expect a different outcome. It is clear our trade policy has failed. The Central American Free Trade Agreement, an exten-

sion of NAFTA, will continue the failed trade policy. We should pass trade agreements that lift up standards around the world, create jobs, both in the developing world and in the United States and change the direction of our trade policy.

#### ADOPTION OF CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONER HECTOR FERNANDO MASEDA GUTIERREZ

(Mr. MANZULLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in this great Chamber of democracy to adopt a Cuban political prisoner, Mr. Hector Fernando Maseda Gutierrez.

Mr. Gutierrez was arrested on March 18, 2003 during a regime crackdown on dissidents, sentenced to 20 years in prison for associating himself with the Florida International University, participating in Radio Marti programs, writing articles for foreign magazines and possessing a typewriter, fax machine, and books in his home.

I urge Fidel Castro to release him immediately.

The Cuban authorities are refusing to give Mr. Gutierrez the medicine he needs for a skin ailment and several allergies. He is 62 years old, and therefore his health problems are of great concern to his family.

Faced with crude living conditions and the possibility of merciless consequences to his family, Mr. Gutierrez is determined not to back down from his conviction for a free Cuba.

Let me finish by saying that I am grateful that my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), promoted this idea of adopting Cuban political prisoners.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHL of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.